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SENATE MEMORIAL 13

**49TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2010**

INTRODUCED BY

Mary Jane M. Garcia

A MEMORIAL

EXTENDING HEARTFELT CONCERN FOR THE VICTIMS OF THE EARTHQUAKE  
IN HAITI AND CALLING UPON STATE AGENCIES, ESPECIALLY THE  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT, TO  
PURSUE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE AID, ASSISTANCE AND SUPPORT  
TO THOSE VICTIMS.

WHEREAS, a massive earthquake, registering 7.0 on the  
Richter scale, struck Haiti just outside of that nation's  
capital of Port-au-Prince shortly before 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday,  
January 12, 2010; and

WHEREAS, the earthquake was the worst in the region in  
more than two hundred years, causing unimaginable destruction  
and affecting an estimated three million people, constituting  
one-third of the entire population of Haiti; and

WHEREAS, schools, hospitals and a prison were all

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1 destroyed, along with countless homes, leaving thousands of  
2 residents homeless and without food or water; and

3 WHEREAS, many aftershocks have been experienced in the  
4 city, including one occurring on January 20, 2010 that measured  
5 6.1 on the Richter scale, almost equaling the strength of the  
6 original earthquake, and contributing to further destruction;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, although the world has rushed to rescue those  
9 trapped in the wreckage and provide assistance to those without  
10 shelter or sustenance, relief efforts are impeded by many  
11 factors, including roadways that are blocked by rubble, a small  
12 and partially destroyed airport, a nonfunctioning public  
13 utility system and the utter destruction of most of the  
14 infrastructure of the beleaguered city; and

15 WHEREAS, despite the obstacles, governments and aid  
16 agencies worldwide have been marshaling supplies and personnel  
17 to get help to Haiti; and

18 WHEREAS, the people of the United States have demonstrated  
19 that Haitians are their neighbors in both tangible and  
20 intangible ways, as the hearts and pocketbooks of American  
21 citizens have been pouring out generous aid, comfort and  
22 support to the residents of Haiti; and

23 WHEREAS, the mission of the New Mexico homeland security  
24 and emergency management department is "to protect the people  
25 of New Mexico and the nation in a coordinated program of

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1 mitigating hazards, preparing for emergencies, preventing  
2 attack and responding and recovering from events that occur  
3 with regard to this cause";

4 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
5 OF NEW MEXICO that heartfelt concern be expressed for the  
6 victims of the earthquake in Haiti and that state agencies,  
7 especially the homeland security and emergency management  
8 department, be called upon to pursue every opportunity to  
9 provide aid, assistance and support to those victims; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all branches of government  
11 facilitate and support any and all efforts of employees who  
12 wish to contribute aid and comfort to those victims through  
13 personal donations; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individual members of the New  
15 Mexico legislature and all citizens of New Mexico consider the  
16 best way each person can make a meaningful contribution to  
17 provide aid, comfort and support to Haitians in need, including  
18 making a donation through a legitimate aid organization, a list  
19 of which can be found at [http://www.usaid.gov/locations/  
20 latin\\_america\\_caribbean/country/haiti/eq/](http://www.usaid.gov/locations/latin_america_caribbean/country/haiti/eq/); and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
22 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of homeland security  
23 and emergency management and the majority leadership offices of  
24 the legislature.